





Buvers' Guide

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School district revisiting facility needs

BY MIKE WARREN **EDITOR**

MARSHFIELD - Nearly a year after district voters rejected a proposed \$99.5 million referendum for new and renovated facilities, officials with the School District of Marshfield are revisiting their long-range building needs.

The Board of Education on Feb. 14 heard an update from Jeff Mangan with Nexus Solutions, which the district has hired to complete a comprehensive analysis of school facilities.

"We're about halfway through it. Things should all be coming together in early April to present to the administration, the facility committee and the board, and the community with the results of our findings,' Mangan told board members. "We're taking a look at all building systems inside and outside and we're bringing in consulting engineers, other third parties that can help us assess the facilities and determine what the problems are and what potential solutions are to present to everybody and get their feedback. A big part of it, too is talking to people," Mangan continued. "Talking to staff and students and getting peoples' opinions of what the facilities are like for them, what their experience is."

Mangan said his efforts have thus far included a student engagement session, held Jan. 24 at Marshfield High School with members of leadership groups including student council, student athletes and career and technology





Planning report

Facility Planning Milestone Schedule

Facility.

education students. The students broke out into groups of five and were polled on four different questions.

resent DRAFT

One question asked students how Marshfield's school buildings and facilities impact their education and/or cocurricular activities. Mangan read some of the responses to the board.

"Inadequate HVAC systems create hot and cold spots and poor ventilation which causes discomfort and fatigue. It is difficult to see because poor, inadequate lighting and lack of natural light, or daylight, make it difficult to see clearly. Old equipment and furniture looks dated and tired. Many spaces are undersized and/or poorly designed, which causes crowding, poor traffic flow and safety problems. Poor sound-proofing between classrooms leads to distraction and disruption. The bathrooms are dated and inadequately sized, which causes congestion and delays between classes. Overall, the school is not inviting. It's old, outdated, not inviting or inspirational and it leads to a lack of pride. That's a summary of responses to that question," Mangan noted.

In their own words, several students took turns telling the board about some of the concerns they have and some of the problems they've experienced at the high school, which was constructed in the late 1960s.

NOTE: No

District or

prioritized plan

District-tunded

for both

and polen

projects

Student groups were also asked if they would prioritize investment in maintenance projects, such as heating and cooling, bathrooms, etc. or educational upgrade projects like additional space, remodeled facilities, flexible learning spaces, athletics, career and technical education or a combination, and why.

"The students collectively said a combination of building system and learning space improvements need to be prioritized," said Mangan.

Those include larger and newer bathrooms, LED and natural lighting, more space for and newer CTE (Career & Technical Education) and weight room equipment, and improvements to the Commons and wrestling room.

When asked how they would communicate facility needs to other students and the greater Marshfield community,

See **FACILITY** page 9











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Centergy launches 'Central to Success' campaign to boost regional prosperity

FOR HUB CITY TIMES

MADISON -- In a strategic move to enhance regional vitality, central Wisconsin has unveiled the "Central to Success" campaign, a pioneering marketing initiative spearheaded by Centergy. The effort is designed to attract and retain talent for the benefit of communities and businesses across the region, and was announced Feb. 12 during the business group's two-day Central Wisconsin Days legislative lobbying event in Madison.

'Tonight isn't just celebration about having a voice for central Wisconsin," said Angel Laidlaw, President & CEO at Centergy. "It's really a celebration of central Wisconsin as a region. We can do more together."

Over the past year, Centergy has collaborated with key partners to develop CentralToSuccess. com – a website dedicated to showcasing the region's quality of life, employment opportunities, educational offerings, and business development landscape. platform is set become a central for information, continually expanding to include resources for entrepreneurs and culturespecific amenities.

CentralToSuccess.com is available free of charge to all communities and businesses, fostering a sense of unity and a shared regional identity, read a Centergy press release. The initiative marks a

at 715-743-3293.

appointment!

MARCH

Senior Life EXPO



Centergy, Inc. President/CEO Angel Laidlaw, unveiling the business group's new Central to Success website, during a ribbon-cutting announcement and celebration hosted Feb. 12 at the Premier Park Hotel in Madison, during the Central Wisconsin Davs advocacy event. Kris Leonhardt photo

significant step forward in establishing a powerful regional brand that can be leveraged collectively.

"This is a free resource for anyone in the central Wisconsin region to use that covers things like quality of life, education, job opportunities, and really you can grow your family business or yourself in central Wisconsin," Laidlaw added.

"Central to Success' is central to Centergy's goal of uplifting regional prosperity," Centergy Board Chair Paul Fowler with the Wisconsin Institute for Sustainability Technology. "It is a major strand in our effort to foster growth and opportunity in every part of the region, uniting communities, businesses, and innovation. We're excited to see people's reactions and get the message out about what central Wisconsin has to

offer.'

Dr. Rebecca Willfahrt, a Central Wisconsin

native, has recently changed locations and

has joined Scaletta Dental in Neillsville,

Wisconsin. Dr. Willfahrt graduated from

Marquette University School of Dentistry

in 2021 and was previously practicing at

has settled into her new role and is NOW

is a certified injector through the American

the Dental Clinic of Marshfield. Dr. Willfahrt

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In addition to general dental services, Dr. Willfahrt

Academy of Facial Esthetics and provides Botox to

patients. If you are looking to minimize headaches

find an alternative treatment to clenching/grinding,

or interested in an esthetic boost, please call to

set up a consultation, or ask about it at your next

Centergy was one of six community organizations collaborating with Mid-State Technical College securing support from the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation's (WEDC) Workforce Innovation Grant Program. This program is assisting regions in Wisconsin in addressing their most pressing workforce challenges. The grant has provided financial support for collaborative, sustainable, and innovative pandemic-recovery plans developed by regional organizations, including capacity-building grants.

"Centergy's commitment to both recruiting and retaining workforce central Wisconsin outstanding," is added Bobbi Damrow, Vice President of Workforce & Economic Development at Mid-State Technical

> See CAMPAIGN page 9

Dr. Willfahrt Accepting



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Monthly Events Calendar



March 00 March 00 March 00

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The Events Calendar will run the last Wednesday of each month and include the events for the following month.

Deadline for March Events is Friday, February 23rd at 10:00 am



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Centergy announces 2024 Officers, Board of Directors



Sonnemann

FOR HUB CITY TIMES

CENTRAL WISCONSIN -- Centergy, Inc., a nonprofit regional marketing and economic development organization. announces the 2024 Board of Directors and officers. The three newly-appointed members bring a wealth of diverse experiences and a shared commitment to driving economic growth and fostering prosperity throughout central Wisconsin.

Denise Sonnemann - Marshfield Area **Chamber of Commerce & Industry (MACCI)**

With a background in community engagement, marketing, and public relations, Denise offers extensive experience and a solid foundation in business.Previously serving as the Executive Director of Main Street Marshfield. she collaborated closely with state, regional, and local stakeholders organizations to enhance the community's wellbeing. Denise's deep-seated passion for community development business, coupled with her adeptness in forging robust partnerships, positions her as a valuable asset for MACCI, both presently and in the years to come.

Each board member brings a unique perspective and a steadfast commitment to the mission, ensuring a well-rounded leadership team for Centergy.

Brad Gast - Northcentral Technical College, Dean of Workforce Training and Professional Development

Brad Gast has a



background in diverse both the business world the educational and realm, with experience in facility management, energy conservation, corporate training, and college faculty roles. In his role, Brad oversees a division that serves over 10,000 students and 500 businesses annually, earning recognition as the top training college in North America by LERN. Committed to community service, Brad's mission is to ensure the thriving success of every individual, business, and community through workforce training, professional development, and strategic planning initiatives.

Joe Schuchardt -Findorff, Director of **North Central Operations**

Joe Schuchardt has 20 years of experience in the field. Joe plays a pivotal role in the day-to-day oversight of construction management activities, handling tasks from preconstruction to project closeout. His expertise extends to notable projects such as the 25 West Main development in downtown Madison and multiple ventures for Sentry Insurance in Stevens Point. A proud alumnus of UW-Madison with a major in Construction Administration, Joe has dedicated 15 years of his career to Findorff. In his personal life, Joe is happily married to Kim, and together, they have raised three children named Marisa, Drew, and Claire.

> Full 2024 Centergy **Board of Directors**



- · Chair Paul Fowler. Ph.D., Executive Director, Wisconsin Institute for Sustainable Technology
- · Vice Chair Gautam Malik, CEO at Gamber-
- Johnson LLC · Treasurer - Nick Faber, CPA, President/CEO at
- Simplicity Credit Union Secretary - Joe Schuchardt - Findorff,

Director of North Central

- Operations James Matheson, Senior Vice President -Chief Strategy Officer,
- Aspirus Melinda Osterberg, Regional **Economic** Development Director, Wisconsin **Economic**
- **Development Corporation** · Michael M. Smith, JD, Senior Vice President, Secretary and General Counsel, Church Mutual
- **Insurance Company** · Manny Vasquez, Vice President & Partner, Pfefferle Companies
- · Brad Gast, Northcentral Technical College, Dean of Workforce Training and Professional Development
- · Denise Sonnemann, Marshfield Area Chamber of Commerce & Industry, **Executive Director**

Looking towards future

Centergy's 2024 Board of Directors and officers are ready to embark on their new strategic direction while working collaboratively to grow central Wisconsin. The strategic focus on Talent Growth, Regional Advocacy, Business Development, and Partner Engagement will guide the board's actions as they strive to make a lasting impact on the economic landscape of the region.

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ONLY

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Yogurt



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Limit 1 coupon per item, per visit. Valid through 2/27/24.

AD COUPON

AD COUPON

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Cheese Dinner 7.25 oz. • original only

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Limit 1 coupon per item, per visit. Valid through 2/27/24.



LIMIT 24 Valid after minimum \$5 purchase.

Limit 1 coupon per item, per visit. Valid through 2/27/24.

Hunt's **Snack Pack Pudding** 4 pack, 3.25 oz. • chocolate, vanilla, butterscotch or chocolate vanilla

LIMIT 10

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Banquet Pot Pie

7 oz. • assorted varieties

LIMIT 6 Valid after minimum \$5 purchase.

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5 - 8 oz. • assorted varieties

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AD COUPON

AD COUPON



Kemps Sour Cream or French Onion Dip 12 - 16 oz. • select varieties

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| OBITUARY |



RAYMOND P. KIEFFER Raymond P. Kieffer, Age 61 of Arpin, passed away peacefully surrounded by his loving family on Wednesday, February 14, 2024, at House of the Dove in Marshfield under the

care of Compassus Hospice. A Mass of Christian Buria will be celebrated at 11 AM on Saturday, February 24, 2024 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Auburndale with Rev. Mural Rayappan as the celebrant with Rev. Nathan concelebrating Raymond will be laid to rest in

the parish cemetery. Family and friends are invited to gather for a time of visitation on Friday at the church from 4 PM to 8 PM and again on Saturday from 10 AM until time of ser vice. The honor of pallbearer belongs to his brothers Bernard Kieffer, Arnold Kieffer, Leroy Kieffer, Dennis Kieffer, Jerry Kieffer, Russell Kieffer, Glen Kieffer and brotherin-law, Ronald Schill.

Raymond was born on August 19, 1962, in Marshfield to Gordon and Angeline (Hamus) Kieffer. He attended St Mary's Parochial School and later Auburndale High School He was united in marriage to in his own words "My Favorite Girl," the former Laurie Schill, on July 23, 1983 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Auburndale. Together, they owned and operated a dairy farm in Arpin with their son

He was a lifelong member of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Auburndale.

Besides taking care of the farm, Ray enjoyed activities such as going to auctions, shooting the breeze with friends and neighbors and helping those same friends and neighbors when in need. He loved to spend time with his grandkids, es pecially taking them on tractor and gator rides. For those who knew Ray, he was known to be a jokester, especially with his grandkids.

Those who will cherish his memory include his loving wife Laurie; his children, Sara (Lee) Copenhaver of Arpin, Jenny (Justin) Krohn of Waukesha, Alan (Kimberly) Kieffer of Arpin and Neil (Danielle Hoesly) Kieffer of Arpin and his grandchildren, Mason and Lila Copenhaver, Haley, Olivia Emily and Eli Krohn and Aaron and Macie Kieffer and his mother Angeline Kieffer of Auburndale. He is further sur vived by his brothers and sisters: Bernard (Cindy) Kieffer Arnold (Julie) Kieffer, Diann (Harry) Bell, Leroy (Laura) Kieffer, Dennis Kieffer, Jerry (Trisha Hause) Kieffer, Donna (Mike) Heil, Russell (Cindy) Kieffer, Darnell (Kurt) Ziegler Glen (Trisha) Kieffer and Dori (Brian) Aschenbrenner along with many nieces, nephews, other relatives, neighbors and friends.

Ray was preceded in death by his father, Gordon Kieffer; his son, Adam Kieffer; his brother, Dale Kieffer; a sister-inlaw, Rhonda Kieffer and a nephew, Jeramie Eveland.

If desired, the family is requesting memorials in Raymond's name be directed to House of the Dove in Marshfield or to Mayo Clinic in Rochester.

Raymond's arrangements are under the care of Life Tributes Funeral Home-Spencer. To share a memory or offer condolences, please visit www.lifetributesfuneralhome.com.

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Marshfield campus to host annual Cultural Fair

MARSHFIELD -- Explore food, crafts, entertainment and more from around the world as the Marshfield Cultural Fair returns to the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point at Marshfield for its 20th year on Saturday, Feb. 24.

Marshfield Buyers' Guide • Hub City Times

The event will be throughout campus from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Performances at the fair will take place in the Upper Commons and Helen Connor Laird Theatre, including The Foxfire Affair, Main Street Conservatory of Dance, 4-H Folkloric Dance Group, Mariachi Cielito Lindo, Bollywood dances, folk and



blues music by AaroChele and a line dance act by Sound-a-Motion. Children can enjoy puppet shows, story time and crafts.

Food this vendors Jamaican year include Kitchens, Al Madinah Cuisine, Dahlia's Kitchen and Catering, Kat's Sweet Escape, GT's Hawaiian BBQ, La Katrina Restaurant, Nagoya Japanese Sushi & Steakhouse and 2 1/2 Cups Cupcakery and Bakeshop.

Exhibitors will have displays showcasing their cultures through stories,

photos, crafts, activities and products for sale. Among the exhibitors are the EDCD Multicultural Community Center, Hmong Hispanic Communication Network, Sinai Congregation and Needlepoint Hmong Motif.

www.HubCityTimes.com

The event is sponsored by UWSP at Marshfield, Marshfield Clinic Health System, Marshfield Area Cultural Fair Committee, Marshfield Foundation, The Umhoefer Foundation, Marshfield Broadcasting Simplicity Credit Union.

For more details, visit www. marshfieldculturalfair.

National FFA Week a time to celebrate FFA, agriculture

BY LIZZY REINART

STATE VICE PRESIDENT SECTION 7, WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF FFA

NEILLSVILLE -- Each year in February thousands of members in the United States celebrate agriculture and FFA. Why? It's National FFA Week.

FFA is an curricular organization with over 945,000 members across the country. Founded in 1928 FFA continues to grow and adapt to best help prepare members for careers in the science, business, and technological of side agriculture. Through conferences, competitions, conventions, and agriculture education



Reinart

courses FFA works to make a positive difference in the lives of its members by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success.

National FFA Week takes place Feb. 17-24 and is a time to celebrate FFA and

the agriculture industry by sharing our stories and experiences with friends, family, and community members.

"National FFA Week is a meaningful week for members across our country as we celebrate an organization that is welcoming to all and crucial to developing the next generation of leaders and those who will fill the ever-growing need in the talent pipeline," said National FFA Advisor Dr. Travis Park. "Not only is it an opportunity to share our message with a broader audience, but it's also an opportunity for our FFA chapters and members to celebrate agriculture and

agricultural thanking while supporters — their local alumni and supporters' chapters, agriculture teachers, local businesses." FFA Week is also a

great time to donate to the organization. Without continuous support, FFA would not be able to offer the wide variety of opportunities that it does.

Thursday, Feb. 22 is Give FFA Day. Members and supporters of the FFA organization are asked to donate to help continue the growing effort of the organization. For more information on how to donate visit wisconsinaged.

New letter to the editor policy

Effective Feb. 5, 2024

Letters to the editor must include the writer's full name, address, and other contact information (only your name and town/city will appear in print and/or online).

We will not accept a letter from an unidentified

- · Letters should be no more than 500 words and may appear in our weekly print issue.
- Letters may be edited by our staff for length, clarity and facts. You may be asked

to rewrite/add to letters to cite sources.

- This publication will only print letters that address a specific issue or article that may be of interest to the bulk of our
- Submit letters to: mwarren@mmclocal.com. We will not print letters

that: Contain libelous or potentially libelous material. Libel is any malicious, unsubstantiated or untrue statement about someone that damages their reputation. Submissions must have facts to back up all claims.

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Political letters to the editor

All letters submitted as an endorsement for a political candidate, referendum or political agenda will carry the same guidelines as above; however, they will be charged \$40 for the first 250 words and an additional \$10 per additional 50 words. All political letters must be prepaid prior to printing. Some submissions may be referred to our advertising department to be run as



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MARSHFIELD Honoring Marshfield's 150th

being part of the Marshfield

community and shared

both their time and talents.

Frank sponsored the city's

elementary school crossing

and

the city's first Officer

Friendly vehicle and the

scoreboard at Arthur J.

Reeths Field. He was a

member of the MACCI

Red Coats Ambassadors'

baseball programs. In 1990

as the new YMCA was

being planned, Frank and

Pat added their financial

While Frank and Pat's

children attended school,

Pat served as a leader for

both the Campfire Girls

and as a Chapter Mother

High Chapter of Future

Homemakers of America

Home Economic Related

Occupations (FHA-HERO).

About the same time the

family hosted AFS students

for short stays at the

community events too.

In 1972, as Marshfield

observed its Centennial,

Pat assisted with costumes

participated

Vandehey home.

Pat

Marshfield

Shady Lane 4-H,

Junior

support to the project.

and Marshfield

donated

guards,

Club

Marshfield 150 for 150: Frank and Patricia Vandehey

NOMINATED BY THEIR GRANDCHILDREN

Back on April 1, 1955, Frank Vandehev, who initially thought he would be a veterinarian, was hired as an office manager for a farm equipment and truck dealer called International Harvester in Wausau. As an office manager, he knew the only way to advance within the company was to understand the truck business itself, and that is when his passion for trucks

began. On Sept. 1, 1965, Frank and Patricia Vandehey, along with business partners Ruben Hilliker, Fritz Lau and Raymond Specht, officially became an authorized dealer for GMC and International Trucks in Marshfield, located on Fourth Street. Shortly thereafter, one of Frank's first bold initiatives was to set up a truck leasing operation that today Idealease become has Central Wisconsin. Another great initiative was when he acquired a school bus franchise to sell school buses throughout the state. Both initiatives would prove to be brilliant marketing strategies that continue to pay major dividends today. By the end of Frank's first year in business, he had 12 employees and \$1.4 million in sales.

In 1969, with the intention of expanding the business, Frank and his partners began researching the opportunity to buy Two years later land. purchased land they located within the current Marshfield Business Park, strategically located along a proposed highway currently bypass, WI-13 and US-10. In 1972, Mid-State Truck Service built a 29,000-square foot truck and bus dealership and a full-service and center. Shortly parts thereafter, to facilitate the new expansion, the staff was increased to over 28 employees.

struggling Despite during the recession of the 1980s, Mid-State was able to bounce back and continue regaining financial growth. In 1985, the company renovated and upgraded their facility. The entire floor plan was reorganized, allowing for more office space and an enclosed parts department. The upgraded facility then housed 59 employees comfortably. Then in 1986, Mid-State acquired Point Truck Sales and three years later built another new International truck dealership and fullservice center in Plover. In 1987, Mid-State once again expanded its footprint and

Buyers' Guide rketplace Connection for Marshfie and Surrounding Areas Since 1987. The Marshfield Buyers' Guide is published by Multi Media Channels, LLC every Wednesday. 104 East 2nd Street Marshfield, WI 54449

Phone: 715.384.4440 Marshfield@mmclocal.com

Hours Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - Noon 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

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Sales Account Executive Peggy Sue Behselich <u>Delivery</u> Jim Jozwiak



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opened a full-service parts center in Wisconsin Rapids. By 1988, Frank was able to buy out his three partners and became sole owner. At this time, the Mid-State employed organization 84 people. The company's growth during this period

was a direct result of

staying true to the basic

business values which had

served the company well

for the previous 20 years.

In 1990, Mid-State Truck Service earned "Firm of the Year" honors from the Marshfield Area Chamber of Commerce and Industry for its good corporate citizenship and extensive $community\ involvement.$

Shortly thereafter, in 1993, Mid-State Truck was recognized nationally for the first time with "Circle Navistar's of Excellence" award, honor extended to only 45 of more than 700 such dealers in the U.S. and Canada. Mid-State has earned the same award 14 times since then. In addition those recognized accomplishments, they have also received the Navistar and International Harvester "Dealer Service Awards" for 41 consecutive years. Idealease of Central Wisconsin received the prestigious "Idealgold" award for 13 years, a recognition for operating excellence.

In 1999, after 34 years as general manager and president of Mid-State Truck Service, Frank Vandehey retired, passing along his leadership and successful business skills, as well as company ownership, to his three sons; Jon, Tom and Bill Vandehey, and son-inlaw; Tim Federwitz. Throughout his tenure. Frank demonstrated great leadership, vision and innovation, expanding the company's customer base by offering multiple truck and bus options, as well as continuously improving

his service operations. Frank and Pat valued

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for the Centennial Pageant production. In 1983, along with Tom Kraus and Lawrence Thill, she helped organize the Marshfield Chaparrals Baseball Association. Pat was also a member, officer and committee chairperson at various times for the Marshfield Business & Professional Women's Club and served as Gift Shop Chair for the St. Joseph Hospital Auxiliary.

Vandehey 2020. In Waters Outdoor Aquatic Center was made a reality by a generous donation in honor of Frank and Pat Vandehey. The water park opened in 2021 and is enjoyed by many families every summer making wonderful memories for kids of all ages.

PUBLISHER'S LETTER

The Essence Of **Accumulation: Sharing** Makes It Meaningful

Dear Reader.

In a world where we amass treasures and experiences,

let's not forget the profound truth - accumulation gains its true value when shared with others. Material possessions and achievements may fill our lives, but without someone to share them with, the joy they bring remains incomplete.



So, let's embrace the beauty of sharing, for it is in those shared moments that our accumulations find their true purpose and meaning.

PATRICK J. WOOD- Publisher



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AUBURNDALE HIGH SCHOOL SCHOOL NEWS February 21, 2024

A weekly feature highlighting school news from around the area!

www.HubCityTimes.com



Mr. Weinfurter teaching an Rtl Math lesson.



Mrs. Hansen teaching 3rd grade math Number Corner



Mrs. Konkol students working on math groups.

The Auburndale Elementary Eagles are "soaring" through the school year with lots of awesome activities and learning opportunities daily!

At Auburndale elementary we are a 4K-5 building that focuses on students individual learning through goal setting and personalized learning plans. Students benefit from small class sizes where our Kindergarten through 3rd grade have an 18:1 student to teacher ratio and our 4th and 5th grade is less than 25 each. We offer breakfast and lunch daily to our students, as well as music, physical education, and art. 5th grade students are given the opportunity to try out an instrument and join the band.

In academics we are "meeting expectations" and continue to have outstanding student achievement especially in the areas of math and reading. Through personalized learning our two interventionists give students extra 1:1 or small group instruction to focus on specific skills to develop and grow. We use a Science of Reading curriculum focused on sound based learning of reading and writing with an emphasis on phonics.

The outstanding and talented staff provides students with joy and laughter daily all while creating an environment where students feel welcome and learning occurs all the time. We welcome volunteers to come share in the Auburndale Elementary experience!

Some of our fun activities include heading to our School Forest, which is within walking distance from the school. Here students get to expand the classroom and participate in science, reading, math and social studies in the great outdoors. Students also get to snowshoe in winter, hike in autumn, make maple syrup in the spring, navigate and problem solve in the corn maze and be awestruck at the beauty of sunflowers. We have two new beautiful playgrounds that are one of a kind in the area!

Auburndale Elementary students also take on the staff in a fun basketball game, as well as badminton or rollerblading. Students also participate in the Kids Heart Challenge and learn about helping others. We celebrate a character word of the month such as respect, kindness, responsibility and self discipline. We have two musical concerts and a student led art show. Auburndale Elementary is a place that is full of joy and excitement and we welcome you to share in the learning experience! Stop in and see what makes AES such a special place!



Veteran's Duck trip and the recognition at halftime of football



Honoring veterans is an integral part of the learning experience at the School District of Auburndale. Throughout the year, various activities, such as veterans' mailings, provide students from kindergarten through senior classes with the opportunity to express their gratitude for veterans' services and sacrifices. Letters, drawings, cards, and coloring pages are created to acknowledge and honor their contributions. The Veterans Coffee Club, which convenes on the second

Tuesday of each month during the school year, serves as a platform for students and veterans to establish meaningful relationships that extend beyond the monthly meetings. This interaction also allows students to gain firsthand insights into history. Originating with five members, the Veterans Coffee Club has grown to include over 30 veterans attending regularly. All veterans and active service members are welcome to join the meetings on the second Tuesday of each month, when school is in session, from 8:00-9:15 am in the Tim Anderson Gymnasium Lobby.

Furthermore, veterans are honored through the display of Veterans on Main Banners, a project organized by the Community Leadership class. Since 2020, 29 veterans' banners have adorned Main Street of Auburndale every summer. Additionally, a Veterans Recognition Night takes place before a football game, where local veterans are acknowledged. The most recent game saw over 50 veterans being appreciated. The next Veterans Recognition Night is scheduled for Friday, September 13, during the Auburndale versus Pittsville football game at home.

The Community Leadership class also coordinates the Veterans Duck Trip to the Dells each spring. Veterans enjoy a ride on the Original Wisconsin Duck, followed by lunch. During the send-off in the morning, elementary students wave flags, give high-fives to the veterans, and express their gratitude for their services. On the return journey, veterans partake in "Mail Call," reading letters of thanks for their service. Upon arriving at the high school, the buses pass under two ladder trucks displaying a large American flag, while the student body cheers and holds signs for the veterans. A short assembly in the gym allows the veterans to share their name, branch of service, and time of service. The Veterans Duck Trip is fully funded by the class and serves as the school's version of the Honor

If you know a veteran interested in participating in any of these activities, please contact Joren Anderson at janderson@aubschools.com.





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On December 7th, 2023 the Auburndale High School marching band marched in the Pearl Harbor Parade in Hawaii under the direction of Keaton Wegner. This was the first time Auburndale High School was able to march in this parade. 59 band students attended this trip, and we had an additional 60 chaperones, parents and siblings.

Besides marching in the parade, the students were also able to tour Pearl Harbor. The picture taken shows

the group in front of the USS Missouri. Students were also able to stand above the USS Arizona, which was a meaningful moment. Besides the opportunity to march, students received a history lesson they will not soon forget.

This opportunity was only possible due to the generosity of the community. Thank you to all who supported the students through donations and fundraising!

A weekly feature highlighting school news from around the area!

SCHOOL NEWS



Women in Tech Ed: An Exciting Class

BY NAOMI RONNING

When you take a look at the City of Pittsville you see a community of helping hands, endless kindness, and more importantly constant support. Pittsville Public High School houses approximately 200 kids. Pittsville is not only known for its academic excellence but also their athletic excellence. Pittsville has one the highest graduation rates with 98%. Although Pittsville is small it has no impact on the amount of opportunities this school carries. It offers a variety of courses including various AP courses and trade classes such as automotive, welding, woodworking, and horticulture courses. Pittsville also offers a women's only tech class led by Mr. Stephen Hadfield. This course shows female students a variety of skills including welding, woodworking, graphic design, basic mechanics, basic electrical work and plumbing. I feel this course is very beneficial to ladies of this generation to be more independent and feel comfortable learning in a female only environment. I feel this class introduces and encourages female students into career paths that most would not usually consider as they are male dominated. It also encourages the ladies that take the class to learn new skills and step out of their comfort zone. According to Mr. Hadfield, Pittsville is one of the few schools offering this course and has inspired other schools to offer this class as well.

A Beloved Tradition

BY MADDIE KUMM

A longstanding tradition at Pittsville High School is the co-ed dance that the pom team puts on during basketball season. Although the event was very popular for many years, COVID-19 put a pause on basketball season and the co-ed dance. But this year at the varsity boys basketball game on January 26th, the pom team brought out several male athletes from around the school to dance to Big & Rich's 'Soul Shaker.' Sticking with the usual Southern theme, the team brought out their cowboy boots and flannel shirts. This year, there was lots of interest from the boys here at Pittsville, so much so that they performed a second show, this time to Fake ID by Big & Rich. Freshman Liam Parkison was convinced by one of his friends to volunteer for the co-ed dance. He enjoyed it, saying that it "felt good performing in front of everyone" and that "when you're out there you're not as nervous as it may seem." He likes that Pittsville has this tradition since it's a great way to try new things. Freshman Jackson Duerr was similarly convinced to try it out but, at first, it wasn't what he expected. He said that, "coming into it I thought I'd go to a couple practices and be fine but after that first one I was completely lost. But thanks to amazing coaches and partners we were all able to learn it and perform it great. It turned out to be fun and enjoyable in the end."

This event was a hit with both the students and the community, leading to more spectators attending the game. Cheering could be heard throughout the gym as the group of teens danced their hearts out. Throughout the day of and the day after, many excited conversations could be heard throughout the halls about this exciting day.

In all, PHS has a very fun atmosphere. From our very intense homecoming games to performances at sporting events, Pittsville provides both a worthwhile educational experience and excitement.

Career and Technical Education Spotlight

BY CHAUNCEY JONES

February is Career and Technical Education month, designed to promote awareness of the great things that CTE is accomplishing all over the nation. In Pittsville, students have the opportunity to take a wide variety of CTE courses including, but certainly not limited to, Cranberry Science, Welding, Restaurant Management, Yearbook and Web Design, Gourmet Foods, Foundations of Early Childhood, and both Large and Small Animal Veterinary Sciences. Housed in the new CTE building, students have access to state-of-the-art equipment and high-level instruction that lets them build skills that will allow them to thrive in an ever-changing society. Since 2014, Pittsville's CTE academy has placed students at over 1,300 job shadows and 400 internships. These relationships with local businesses are celebrated each year when the school hosts a breakfast

for employers to thank them for their support of the students. Additionally, students can earn college credit while still in high school through enrollment in dual credit courses. Last year alone students earned a total of 393 dual credit hours, for a total potential savings of over \$59,000.00. For students who plan on pursuing a career that benefits from a technical degree, this is a huge benefit. Junior Dylan Havlik, who plans on attending Mid-State Technical College for their Diesel and Heavy Equipment Technician program, says that it's a wonderful "opportunity to receive college credits in high school and will greatly help when I'm in college" and working towards his future career. As of right now, he has six college credits, is working on another three, and plans to take more his senior year. A huge congratulations to the Pittsville CTE department on all their continuous hard work and the impact that they are having on students in the community.

The Central Wisconsin Educational Theater Alliance and Our Resident Student Actress

BY CONNOR C. BLACK

Anyone who knows anything about acting would know that the art of acting is a well refined and difficult skill with an incredibly high ceiling for improvement. To most, it would be seen as daunting for anyone who wants to get into the field and doesn't know where to start in their acting career. Even considering how difficult of a talent acting can prove to be, some people still happen to take an interest to it and go far enough into their passion to have refined it into an art form and a lifestyle; An art form worthy of a crowd, an art form worth of rousing applause and an art form worthy of public recognition. This is exactly what Cayley Gosney has done with her talent and passion for acting. She personally hopes for her acting to inspire others to take to the stage and act their passions out under the spotlights and surrounded by other actors who share the same passion. After an interview with her being Pittsville High School's resident student actress, she stated the following about the topic "I feel it's important for the student body to see the show because the arts are not always as recognized as athletic programs. It is a whole new medium for a lot of students and it can help show them there are more opportunities if they don't enjoy sports. Storytelling is a huge part of our lives, and live theater is an experience like no other. Everything is happening in real-time, and though we spend months learning every move and word down to a tee, anything can happen once the curtain is raised. I hope the CWETA's 'Beauty and the Beast' and my involvement in this show can help grow interest in the arts for young performers and build music education in our communities for years to come." This is Cayley's take on why it could be important for members of the student body to attend the show. This show will be performed at the Grand Theater in Wausau from February 21-25 and the Pittsville Drama club has arranged a field trip on February 22 to go and support Cayley. One of the primary goals of this trip is to show other students in our student body the beauty of acting. And with one of our own students being in this show we hope to ignite a passion for theater in other students and people. And hopefully they can learn to appreciate the art of acting more than before after seeing a familiar face doing it right in front of them, and maybe someday they can be as passionate about acting as Pittsville's local actress, Cayley Gosney, who's passion for acting knows no bounds. I could tell while interviewing her that she is very passionate about the future of acting, an art form that will never truly expire. As more and more people become interested in the art and their passion grows and blossoms they could become the next big name in acting and fulfill their dreams, all because they have gone to go see a show with a familiar face acting in it. Now with all of that said, pursue your dreams, whatever they may be. It does not have to be acting, it is your passion; and only you can truly follow it. So get out there and follow your dreams!



The co-ed dance participants along with the Pom Team.

Photo by Kristin Mueller









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facing in the facility.

FACILITY from page 1

buildings," Mangan added in conclusion.

students' responses ranged from pictures and videos of

the issues and problems being posted online and on social

media to student community forums and poster boards and

picture signs in pick-up/drop-off areas of what some of the

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Mangan also has indicated his firm's final facilities assessment report is tentatively scheduled to be presented to the board at its April 10th meeting.

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CAMPAIGN from page 2

and Centergy College Board Past Chair. "Central leverages Success' our area's strengths and provides a platform to support a thriving central

Wisconsin." The campaign extends beyond the digital realm, with Centergy actively co-branded preparing toolkits for business investors. Additionally, paid campaigns with compelling themes such as "Why not live where you vacation?" and "We are Central to YOUR Success as a business or professional" will be promoted to resonate with target audiences.

Furthermore, Centergy is taking its commitment beyond state borders by participating in military discharge events with Wisconsin, Mission broadening the reach of the "Central to Success" campaign.

"August will be our first Veteran recruitment event and we're hoping to travel to Colorado, where we can have direct, oneon-one conversations with Veterans and get them into contact with other Veterans in central Wisconsin," said

Laidlaw. "We are thrilled to launch the 'Central to Success' campaign, a collaborative effort that underscores the strengths and opportunities that central Wisconsin has to offer," Laidlaw added. "This isn't just a brand; it is who we are as a region. We need to share how amazing our communities and people are in central Wisconsin and share our stories. This initiative represents a pivotal moment for our region, emphasizing unity, growth, and prosperity for

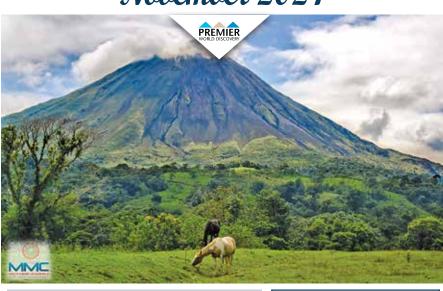
For more information visit centraltosuccess.com.

About Centergy

Centergy, Inc. is a 501(c)4 nonprofit regional marketing and economic development organization. Centergy is committed to advancing prosperity and vibrancy in five-county region of central Wisconsin: Adams, Lincoln, Marathon, Portage, and Wood counties.

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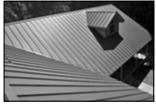
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National FFA Week always runs from Saturday to Saturday and encompasses Feb. 22, George Washington's birthday. This year, the week kicks off on Feb. 17 and culminates on Saturday, Feb. 24.

The National FFA Board of Directors designated the week long tradition, which began in 1948, recognizing Washington's legacy as an agriculturist and farmer. A group of young farmers founded FFA in 1928, and the organization has been influencing generations that agriculture is more than planting and harvesting — it involves science, business and more.

The National FFA Organization is a school-based national youth leadership development organization of more than 945,000 student members as part of 9,163 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Island.

FFA Week is comprised of daily activities:

- SUNDAY: SAE Sunday Learn more about SAEs here: saeforall.org
- MONDAY: National Days of Service Showcase how your Chapter/State Association plans to work to serve your individual communities during National Days of Service or has already done in the past year
- TUESDAY: FFA Alumni Day
- WEDNESDAY: Ag Teacher Appreciation Day Honor FFA mentors and educators who provide guidance to members, conveying appreciation for their unwavering commitment to nurturing the leaders of tomorrow
- THURSDAY: Give FFA Day Invite your family, friends, and colleagues to join us in supporting FFA members everywhere by donating at: giveffaday.ffa.org
- FRIDAY: National Wear Blue Day

FEBRUARY 17-24, 2024







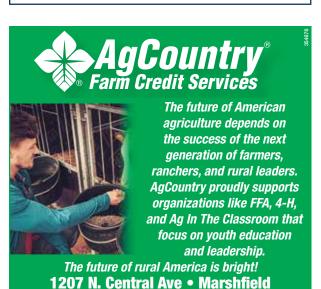
[www.ffa.org/national-ffa-week]

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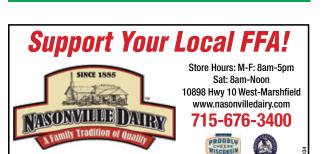




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